

Testimony in SUPPORT of:

S.B. NO. 184 (Raised) An Act Extending Through November 8, 2022, Several Changes Regarding Election Administration as a Result of Covid-19 and Concerning Eligibility to Vote by Absentee Ballot.

H.B. No. 5262 (Raised) An Act Revising Certain Absentee Voting Eligibility Statutes.

Hearing FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2022 – 10 AM

I am writing in support of **S.B. No. 184** and **H.B. No. 5262** as referenced above.

I SUPPORT S.B. 184 because **it would allow voters to cite fear of Covid as a reason for voting by absentee ballot.** I have underlying medical conditions. I'm among the countless voters who don't feel safe going to the polls while Covid is still such a serious and ambiguous health threat. Not allowing such absentee voting would disenfranchise significant segments of American voters.

I SUPPORT H.B. 5262 because **it would amend our state statutes regarding the "illness" provision for absentee ballot voting.** It would align them with our CT State Constitution. We've seen the challenges of Covid. We can't afford mad scrambles to pass last-minute legislation to fix these inconsistencies were there to be pandemics or medical emergencies in the future. We must take this opportunity to avoid disenfranchising American voters because of inconsistent laws in the State of CT.

Voter access to the ballot, in any form, is an inalienable right for all Americans.

Thank you,

Jackie Kaiko
Stamford, CT